

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 18-003(f)
Septic System**

Technical Area (TA)-18 is located off Pajarito Road near the confluence of Pajarito Canyon and Threemile Canyon. The principal activities at TA-18 are the design, construction, research, development, and application of experiments that involve chain reactions of atoms splitting fast enough to be self-sustaining (called nuclear criticality).

PRS History: PRS 18-003(f) is an inactive septic system and associated drain field that serviced Building 18-30 from 1951 to 1969. Located west of Building 18-30, the 1,000 gallon reinforced concrete tank received sanitary waste from Building 18-30 and subsequently drained to a leach field west of the tank. The tank was deactivated in 1969 and filled with sand.

ER Project personnel sampled the tank contents (dry sludge and sand), soils around the inlet and outlet lines, and subsurface locations inside and down gradient from the drain field at PRS 18-003(f) in 1994.

PRS 18-003(f) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit and has been proposed for no further action. There are no indications of residual risk at the site.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 18-003(f) burned during the Cerro Grande fire (a fire intensity rating of low to high). The drain field may be

subject to erosion or scouring, and there may be surface and near-surface contamination associated with the drain field. There is no



debris on the site that could enter the flood watercourse. PRS 18-003(f) is in an area

undergoing a high level of flood control construction activity.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 18-003(f) is part of a voluntary corrective measures plan designed to

- Collect supplemental surface and subsurface soil samples,
- Determine the nature and extent of soil contamination (if present) from the supplemental data,
- Assess the potential human health and ecological risk, and
- Clean up the site by excavation, if necessary.

Removing inactive septic tank systems that occupy canyon-bottom settings is an ER Project best management practice designed to mitigate environmental concerns. The voluntary corrective measures plan indicated that the tank at PRS 18-003(f) is scheduled to be removed.

Related Documents: November 2, 1995; VCM Plan, March 17, 1999.